

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 7, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:15 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Robert Bollengier; Mary Walsh; Frank Maher, and Bill Munroe. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Clerk Coutcher moved to go into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 and in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a)(8) for Student Hearing(s), written notice having been provided to the individual(s) informing him/her of the right to hold the hearing in open session. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting moved to Executive Session at 6:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:20 p.m.

Two votes were taken during Executive Session to allow both

students to be placed on academic probation. Voted 4 – 3. Clerk Coutcher and Members Maher and Munroe voted no.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in Open Session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Superintendent Geismar read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Geoffrey Southworth said that he stopped in to say goodbye and he thanked everyone for their warm welcome and for allowing him to participate at School Committee meetings this past school year. He said that he will be heading off to college next Tuesday. Superintendent Geismar said that he and his wife and Principal Boulé had the opportunity to attend Geoffrey's Eagle Court Ceremony recently and expressed how proud the district is of Geoffrey. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack expressed best wishes to Geoffrey and presented him with a "Good Luck" cake and gift certificate and thanked him for his service to the district.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Bollengier requested that consent agenda items B. 1., d. and e. be pulled for discussion.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda with item(s) B. 1., d. and e. pulled. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

Referencing consent agenda item 3. a. Letter of Resignation from Christopher Cobain from his position as Sr. High School Director of Student Affairs, effective August 21, 2007, Superintendent Geismar expressed appreciation for Mr. Cobain's fine contribution to the district and said that he will be missed. Superintendent Geismar advised that Mr. Cobain has expressed interest in continuing as the sr. high school boys' basketball coach for one more year.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session Minutes of June 26, 2007; Regular Minutes of July 17, 2007

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

a. Lizbeth Patrick as 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at the Sr. High School, Step 8, BS, Salary \$53,505; effective August 28, 2007

b. Emily Wilson as 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at Wawaloam

School, Step 4, BS, Salary \$42,929; effective August 28, 2007

c. Kathryn Kocab as 1.0 FTE Agricultural/Bio Science Teacher at the Sr. High School, Step 2, BS, Salary \$38,071; effective August 28, 2007

f. David Conti as 1.0 FTE Sr. High School Math Teacher, Step 8, B, Salary \$53,505; effective August 28, 2007

2. Leaves of Absence

a. Request for a 6-month Leave of Absence from Kathleen Wheeler from her position as 1.0 FTE Teacher Assistant at Lineham School, effective August 29, 2007

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with regret)

a. Letter of Resignation from Christopher Cobain from his position as Sr. High School Director of Student Affairs, effective August 21, 2007

4. Grievances

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C. Bills – August invoices in the amount of \$174,234.56; June 2007 Accruals in the amount of \$38,817.32.

D. Home School Approvals – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. GREENE – Rachel, Kyle, Stephanie, and Jaclyn – (Continuance Request)

b. SPECIALE – Nikki and Mia – (Continuance Request)

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) July 6, 2007 RIDE Letter to the Superintendent Regarding the 2007-2008 School Calendar; (2) July 31, 2007 Memo from Director of Special Education Maureen DeCrescenzo Regarding Robert S. vs. EWGRSD; (3) cc: August 7, 2007 Letter from Superintendent Geismar to Lawrence Purtill

Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding Correspondence.

Monthly Budget Projection 2006 – 2007 – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding this item.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Status Reports.

Business

Maintenance

Technology

NEW BUSINESS – Jr. High School Assistant Principal Search – Superintendent Geismar requested that the School Committee appoint one of its members to serve on the jr. high school assistant principal search committee and to allow him to increase the search committee to include the sr. high school principal; the jr. high school principal; two jr. high staff members; and one sr. high staff member.

He referenced the job responsibilities list for this position and said that it outlines how this position will support grades 7 – 12. The Superintendent said that he plans to review the effectiveness of this position by April 2008 to decide if it should be modified or maintained. Member Maher volunteered to serve on the search committee.

Member Bollengier moved to modify the search committee to include both building administrators, two members of the jr. high school staff, and one member of the sr. high school staff for the jr. high school assistant principal search. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

Director of Student Affairs Search – Superintendent Geismar requested that the committee appoint a School Committee member to serve on the search committee for the Director of Student Affairs vacancy. Vice Chair Cicero volunteered to serve on the search committee.

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Member Bollengier asked for consideration to revert back to and to discuss agenda item G. 1. Superintendent's Status Report. In response to Member Bollengier's request, Superintendent Geismar agreed to conduct further investigation and to bring back to the next regular meeting information concerning whether or not the district is

required to have a counsel of record. Member Munroe said that he will send the Superintendent information that he has regarding this topic.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #8607 – Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities – Including Athletics - Amendment – Member Bollengier moved that this matter continue to the next School Committee meeting to allow the policy subcommittee to readdress this policy at its next meeting, tomorrow morning, as it needs corrections so that the School Committee has a correct copy. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

Bond Discussion – Superintendent Geismar said that the West Greenwich Town Council will soon be appointing a representative to serve on the building committee. He said that he has not heard back from the Exeter Town Council yet. Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that meetings continue with Torrado Architect and that the district is moving forward with a feasibility study. Chair DeSack requested that Administration follow-up with the Town Councils, indicating a deadline, requesting that they follow-up with the School Committee chairperson. She said that she will schedule the first meeting for perhaps the beginning of September.

Legal Counsel Services – Superintendent Geismar reported that he spoke with Kevin Breene to clarify with him the counsel of record requirement he had mentioned in his earlier letter to the committee.

Senator Breene told the Superintendent that his main concern is simply to have legal council representation present at School Committee meetings to provide input. Member Munroe said that he will send the Superintendent information regarding this subject matter. Member Munroe stated for the record that the School Committee has full authority to appoint legal counsel.

Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross gave a brief update on the status of the Metcalf fire alarm project and the Sr. High School AP Science venting hoods project. Mr. Ross reported that initial concerns relating to the location of the venting site are no longer a concern since the location was altered.

SAT Prep Course – Superintendent Geismar said that an advertisement was published for a math certified SAT Prep Course teacher. He gave a brief description of the SAT Prep Course program format and said that he will bring further information regarding this matter to the next regular meeting.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to items pulled from the consent agenda by Member Bollengier, B. 1., d. Carmella Farrar as Special Education

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Director, Salary \$ 97,641; (Year 1 to be pro-rated for 10-months);

effective September 1, 2007, and e. Gwenn Spence as Assistant Special Education Director, Salary \$89,207; (Year 1 to be pro-rated for 10-months); contingent upon receipt of RIDE School Certificate and BCI, effective September 1, 2007.

Member Bollengier explained that he pulled these items because of the importance of these two positions. He expressed his opinion that the School Committee, as a committee, should have the opportunity to meet these two candidates prior to voting to appoint them. Chair DeSack reminded members that the policy in place was followed and that two members of the School Committee sat on the search committee. Some members had a lengthy detailed discussion and exchanged their opinions, ideas, and concerns regarding the appointments and importance of these two positions. The committee discussed whether the Filling Administration Vacancies policy should be amended for some positions to include finalist being brought before the School Committee prior to voting to appoint them.

Superintendent Geismar told members that both Carmella Farrar and Gwenn Spence were unable to attend tonight's meeting because they are currently out of town. He advised that Carmella and Gwenn are both fine candidates and expressed his opinion that they will make an excellent team. He said that Carmella has worked for the district for many years; under the direction of Maureen DeCrescenzo and that she knows the district inside and out. The Superintendent said that Gwenn Spence was previously a Special Education Director in

Minnesota; in a district similar to the size of Exeter-West Greenwich and that Gwenn possesses a wealth of experience and has glowing references. Superintendent Geismar said that the search committee was very positive about both of these candidates and that he personally spent a lot of time interviewing both of them. He suggested that the committee schedule a Special Meeting to meet the candidates rather than waiting until its next regular meeting of August 21st which is only six days prior to teachers returning.

Member Bollengier moved to defer the appointments of Carmella Farrar and Gwenn Spence to the regular School Committee of August 21, 2007 and to schedule a Special Meeting on August 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library at which time both applicants will be present for the opportunity for School Committee to meet them and review their biography. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 6 – 1. Chair DeSack voted no.

Chair DeSack advised members to send her what sort of information they would like to hear regarding the candidates.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Monday, August 13, 2007 – Holiday; Tuesday, August 21, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; Friday, August 24, 2007 – New Staff Training; Monday, August 27, 2007 – Teacher Orientation Day; Tuesday, August

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28, 2007 – Professional Development Day; Wednesday, August 29, 2007 – First Day of School All Students

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-5 – None

ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK